

CEMETERY COMMISSION SECRETARY'S REPORT 12/01/2015

ATTENDANCE AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Cemetery Commission was convened on Tuesday, December 01, 2015 at 6:30 pm at 120 Washington Street. Members present included Patricia Donahue, Ruth Kapnis, Joanne Mizioch, and Anthony O'Donnell. Ron Malionek, assistant director of Public Services, was present. Christine Lutts from Friends of Greenlawn , Ward 6 Councillor Beth Gerard, Tim Jenkins, Gary Kinlin? and Jim Kierney ? from the Broad Street area were also in attendance. Absent was board member, Jacqueline Eng.

- Motion was made by Pat Donahue and seconded by Joanne Mizioch to accept minutes of Secretary's Report from last meeting as read.

OLD BUSINESS

SUPERINTENDANT'S REPORT

- * From money appropriated at our last meeting, fence repair at Howard Street Cemetery was completed by Olsen Fence Company using heavier chain link fence. From monies left over, there will be some additional fence repair at Howard Street and Greenlawn where needed.
- * Signage for "funeral parking only" has been ordered as well as new markers for gravesites.
- * Portable cameras will be put at Howard Street in the area where fence is continually cut. Cameras will be shifted on a trial basis before purchase from Sargent Street to Howard Street at no cost to see how things work out.
- * Dave Porter removed 22 stumps from money appropriated at our last meeting for stump removal and with money left over will remove a few more stumps.
- * Cicoria Tree Service has been hired to remove 10 large hazardous trees due to safety concerns. Two have been removed by our cemetery staff, but a crane is needed to remove others. This will be accomplished in mid winter. Certain "specimen trees" (philodendrons and tulip tree) will be replaced. Larry Sampson offered to come with a group of North Shore Community College students to label more trees.
- * We are still working on lighting at Charter Street Cemetery as it is necessary to go through National Grid.
- * Working with Friends of Greenlawn on the project to get new door frames and windows is well underway.
- * Ron is beginning to put tags on "problematic" graves concerning removal of "trinkets", etc.

* Erin from Planning said that the Charter Street Grant of approximately \$90,000.00 for stone restoration, lighting, pathways, wall work, vegetation and signage has been put on hold. Part of the grant is to hire a landscape artist first. Erin solicited three different people and we are meeting Martha Lyons next week to talk about expectations and what she can actually offer.

NEW BUSINESS

- Pat Patrick from Marblehead is beginning to work on chapel windows and the frames and the door sashes so the whole entranceway will be hopefully completed this year. Working with Erin from Planning, Ron will be meeting next week with an architect inside the chapel to discuss the next steps working with the grant monies (restoration, siding, rest of windows etc).
- Computerization process is proceeding slowly and not open to the public yet because glitches in system are trying to be worked out. The ultimate goal is to incorporate it into the new website.
- Ongoing Dog Issues: Pat Donahue referred to a letter to the editor from Dr. Donna Seger about disrespect at the Old Burying Point during Halloween and also to a letter from Colby Miller who recorded sections of the cemetery regulations. He recorded many names of famous people buried at Broad Street and called the cemetery a dogrun. Posted No Dogs Allowed signs are not enforceable because it is not an ordinance. The Commission has to decide to go before the City Council to create an ordinance to not allow dogs in any satellite cemeteries, excluding Greenlawn because it has paved paths. Pat Donahue added that no surrounding municipalities and no cemeteries on the National Register of Historic places allow dogs in their cemeteries.
- Tim Jenkins, who lives in the Pickering House across the street from the Broad Street Cemetery shared some thoughts from the Broad Street group in attendance. He has worked diligently in the Broad Street Cemetery which is the second oldest burial ground and has many rare head stones. He praised the work of Ron and his crew in regards to pruning the trees to help prevent more damage. He feels strongly that the acid rain along with falling limbs have done the most damage to the stones, much more than dog urine. He also stated that weed whacking has also damaged the bottoms of stones. Tim stated that although he understands the concept of disrespect in regard to dogs, when his group goes into cemetery, they are diligent in disposing of trash, needles, bottles, etc. in addition to dog mess. There is a real underlying benefit to having neighbors watching and caring for the cemetery. The President of Chestnut Street Associates also stated how much trash, etc. he has picked up and said by eliminating dogs it becomes a question, "Who is going to pick up the messes left in the cemetery on a regular basis if dog walkers are kept out." He stated that police are short staffed and he would rather have police protect people rather than the cemetery. The consensus of the Broad Street group was that the more dog walkers who volunteer also to take care of the cemetery, the less vandalism, etc. there will be.
- Ron suggested that we bring up this problem for a vote at the next meeting and go for a Police ordinance concerning no dogs allowed.
- Some meeting dates were designated for 2016. February 9, April 12, June 14, August 9,
- **NEXT MEETING**
 - Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at 6:30 pm.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm
- Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Kapnis, secretary